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The Army's job

While U. S. Senator Sam J. Ervin (D-N. C.) continues to zoom in on the Army's snooping into the private affairs of citizens, it is pertinent to wonder out loud just what the Pentagon wants of all of us, not just those of us who may be eligible to serve in the Armed Forces.

A FORMER military undercover man told Senate probers Wednesday that 1,500 -- get that number -- Army plain-clothes agents have infiltrated, photographed, recorded and watched over political picnics, Party conventions, peace marches, a union meet, yippie communes, a church youth group and a drunken college brawl.

The point isn't at all that some or any of these affairs were proper or improper.

The question is, What business is it of the Army's and the Pentagon's whatever went on at these affairs?

IT WOULD seem that the country's investigative chores are already within the purview of such agencies as the FBI, the Treasury Department, the CIA and so on nationally and such as the SBI, State Highway Patrol and local law enforcement agencies inside North Carolina.

What possible need does the Pentagon have with the kind of information its 1,500 plain-clothes agents are picking up?

Senator Ervin gave the Pentagon plenty to think about -- and to do -- when he said that "the purpose of the Army is to protect this country against foreign forces."